Diggers . . . .

The bulk of the profits of the No. 10 Consultation conducted by the W.A. Charities Consultation Committee is to go to the R.S.L. The R.S.L. Executive have committed themselves to the sale of 30,000 tickets. Give it every support.

On the Perth Cup

First Horse - £1000
Second " - £1000
Third " - £1000

100,000 TICKETS AT 2s. 6d.

and hundreds of other prizes.

LAST DAYS, BUY NOW

D. M. BENSON, State Secretary
Christmas Suggestions at Ezy's...

COME, revel in our feast of Shoe and Slipper Bargains. We've something to satisfy every taste, and Ezy's Sell-for-Less Prices save ENORMOUSLY

EZYWALKIN'S
XMAS FAIR

Opportunities like this come but ONCE A YEAR.

Suitable Seasonable Suggestions
We've dozens and dozens of pretty, happy, appropriate ideas in slippers and shoes for every member of the family, which will give so much pleasure and be really serviceable! So—

GIVE SHOES OR SLIPPERS

Come to our Fair, see our Displays, and BUY AT EZY'S LOWER PRICES!

Perth, Fremantle
Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Northam, Boulder, Geraldton, Narrogin, Collie, Albany, Midland Junction, Subiaco, and throughout South Australia and Victoria
The Season’s Greetings to Our Readers

Oh, digger, diggeress or diggeret,
In city, town, in mine, on farm or station,
May Christmas banish every care and fret;
And may the New Year fill you with elation.
May all your skies be crystal clear and blue,
Good luck attend your steps, where'er you roam.
May all the dreams of wealth you dream come true;
May all your freighted argories sail home.
May fortune sky the price of wheat and wool;
May every toiler gain his meed of pelf.
To keep the bulging family stocking full—
In short, we wish you all you’d wish yourself.

December 23, 1932

Uncle Shylock’s Christmas Card

The United States’ insistence on the full pound of flesh with regard to the war debts of Great Britain and her late Allies is hardly likely to promote that peace on earth and goodwill which is usually associated with Christmas tide. One of the bright things that Oscar Wilde wrote, most probably after he heard someone else say it, was that an Englishman does everything on principle. Were he living to-day he would see that the American does everyone on principal and interest. It matters not to him that insistence on the letter of bond may plunge the world still deeper into the morass of economic distress; he must have his pound of flesh because it is so nominated in the bond. One cannot soften an obdurate creditor by telling him what a swine he is; nevertheless, a brief summary of the position with reference to war debts seems called for.

As is well-known, the United States is not so much a nation as an aggregation of nationalities. Although she was a signatory to the treaty guaranteeing Belgium’s neutrality, she did not enter into the war in 1914. Apart from her traditional policy of non-interference in European affairs, her own people were divided in their sympathies with the belligerents, and there was the unique opportunity of trading with both sides. In fact, the British weapon of the blockade aroused more resentment in America than Germany’s high-handed treatment of Belgium. The United States ranged herself on the side of the Entente Powers, only when the German submarine tactics began seriously to threaten her overseas trade. She drew the sword for economic and not for ethical reasons. Up to that time the Allies did not owe her one plugged cent. All the debts which have been the subject of recent conferences and notes represent sums advanced by the United States Government to Great Britain and her Allies, after April, 1917.

Her late entry into the war did not prevent the United States from clamoring on to a high moral plane once she was in. Her newly-donned virtue was thus described in the high-sounding phrases of her paranoiac President: “We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make.” But the nation that was too proud to fight was naturally unprepared to fight. Her long and dilatory preparation was made possible by the hard fighting and heavy losses of her European Allies throughout 1917. The continued resistance of the Entente alone made that preparation possible. America’s role for the time being was that played by England during the wars of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. She had not the trained men but she had the money. If she could not re-inforce the sorely strained battle-line, she could bolster it up with dollars when dollars were as essential as bullets. The money now owed her was expressly made available “to the Governments engaged in war with the enemies of the United States” (We quote from American notes of the period), “for the purpose of more effectually providing for the national security and defence and for prosecuting the war.” But the country which came into the war seeking “no material com-
Sunday Sophistries

The old saying, "Lord, preserve us from our friends," must have special reference to those who pose publicly as our friends. This is amply illustrated by the Perth Sunday Times in its ill-informed paper’s recent stab in the dark at pension matters. A few weeks ago, the Sunday Times published an article on the unsatisfactory treatment certain classes of war pensioners have been receiving in this State. The paper was badly let down by its informant, but it seized the opportunity to attack the Commonwealth Government, and made the wild assertion that this State is being differentiated against in the matter of reductions and cancellations.

At the meeting of the State Executive, on December 7, the Chairman of the Pensions’ Committee (Mr. E. S. Watt) referred to the article in question, and went into details as regards reductions from 1930 to the end of the last financial year. He also stated that the Financial Emergency Act, which excluded certain classes of pensioners, accounted for over 1,000 of the reductions. His refutation of the alarmist statements which have been made in print and elsewhere was briefly summarised in the West Australian the following day. The whole ground is traversed in another part of this issue. At the same time, it was not denied that the position has been unsatisfactory, and was naturally causing the State Executive much concern, and reference was made to the means being adopted for the removal of existing grievances, and the marked degree of success that has attended the Pensions’ Committee’s efforts in this regard.

Instead of withdrawing from a ludicrous situation in discreet silence, the Sunday Times, on December 11, published an article, signed, this time, by “Billzac,” in which the main issues were side-stepped, and further misrepresentations were made. “Billzac” is not a financial member of the R.S.L., and during the past twelve months he has not been present at any meeting of the State Executive at which pension matters were discussed. However, that did not deter him from challenging the accuracy of one who, as Chairman of the Pensions’ Committee, and a member of the Repatriation Board is in possession of fuller knowledge of these matters than the informant who has once again pulled the leg of the Sunday Times. The article is eminently piscatorial. It exemplifies how one can attempt to crayfish out of a false position by throwing red herrings about the footpath. It states that extraneous matter was introduced which had little or no bearing upon charges made by the Sunday Times, and that there was no attempt to refute the figures “quot ed” (the inverted commas are ours) by that paper. Apparently, summarising the whole position, to rebut childish innuendoes is introducing extraneous matter, and giving official figures in opposition to the figures of guess work is not a refutation! “Billzac” should get hold of a standard dictionary and look up the meanings of these heavyweight words.

Examination for Census Staff

Some time ago the State Executive protested, through the Federal Office, against the proposal to confine examinations for the appointment of temporary clerks in connection with the tabulation of the Census next year to Eastern States’ capitals.

At the last meeting of the Executive, a communication was read from Mr. J. Webster (General Secretary), intimating that the Government had decided that such examinations would be carried out in all the capital cities of the Commonwealth. It is further advised that no copies of the examination paper for the 1921 Census were available, but Professor Giblin had stated that the arithmetic paper will consist of “down and across” addition, and candidates will be required to add the figures vertically and horizontally, and to express the total of each column as a percentage of the grand total. The remainder of the paper will consist of a test in dictation and hand writing and a short composition. The forthcoming examination will be conducted by the Public Service Board.

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Delegates on Tour

On November 30, Colonel Nicholson reported to the Executive that a party consisting of himself, Messrs. Mellor, and Benson, Captain Longmore, and Mr. Warner visited the following centres (we had almost written "sentinels."—Ed. L.P.)—Coorda, Bencubbin, and Traying. At Northam, Mr. Curlewes met the visitors, and at Goomalling some of the local members were seen. At Coorda, because of a death in a prominent local family, the previous arrangements were altered. A ball was held, attended by over 170 persons, at which Mr. Benson explained the work of the League. Colonel Nicholson met the Koorda-Road Board and expressed the satisfaction of the League at the compliment and recognition paid by local-government bodies. He also addressed the full gathering, stressing the value of the women's cooperation. The function was a marked success. The decorations were of artistic merit. Some experience of this work enables the statement to be made that it was possibly better than anything of a similar nature ever done in Perth. Mr. Mellor was most generous in assisting the music. There were no complaints, and farmers are no doubt becoming accustomed to a reduced standard of living.

At Bencubbin a remarkable gathering occurred. It took the form of a banquet, attended by over 200 people. The local branch of the Country Women's Association provided all foods, decorations, table linen, etc., an immense work. The cooking was excellent, and the viands were well served by young ladies dressed in a strikingly pretty uniform. Mr. E. H. Rice was the model of a chairman should be. Colonel Nicholson briefly addressed the meeting on land matters. Mr. Benson dealt with the work of the League. Captain Longmore spoke excellentl, and Mr. Mellor was received with evident delight. Mr. Warner occupied the chair, while Mr. Rice assisted at the stage and spoke well. The entertainment was of a very high order, especially in a locally written diggers' sketch by Mr. R. Swan, evidently a former professional of no mean skill. Mr. Mellor was so overcome by emotion that he was unable to finish playing "Annie Laurie," and, apologising in broken accents, retired behind the curtain. This touching incident lent just that touch of pathos and dignity required to complete a most successful evening.

On Sunday the party, with the exception of Mr. Warner, visited Traying, where a representative gathering of League members assembled. The local road board is to be thanked for its uniform courtesy to the League. Colonel Nicholson said a few words of appreciation in reply to the welcome extended by the President, Mr. Craik. The bulk handling installation was inspected. It is a remarkable tribute to Australian initiative—crude, strong, efficient, economical—the very antithesis of costly administrative work.

The trip was most successful and valuable to the League. The co-operation of the women is of proved advantage. In this regard, Mrs. Wilson's work is of outstanding value to the League. The women do the work far better and incomparably cheaper than the men. They are not only no drawback to the reasonable freedom of the gatherings, but a distinct adjunct to the general pleasure. They ensure the attendance of branch members who otherwise will not go long distances to gatherings. They certainly will increase

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WAR PENSIONS IN W.A.
Statement Issued by the Pension Committee of the State Executive

About eighteen months ago the Pensions' Committee became concerned at the number of complaints reaching them involving reductions and cancellations of soldiers' pensions. It soon became evident that the Repatriation Department was embarking upon a close scrutiny of entitlements and assessments, and it appeared that standards which had been the basis of pension payments since the war, were being slowly lowered. Enquiries were made in the other States, where it was found that a similar condition of doubt did not exist. Ministers were interviewed, and the Repatriation Commissioners approached, and other enquiries instituted until the Pensions' Committee were convinced that neither the Government nor the Repatriation Commission had issued instructions to effect savings by bringing about reductions in soldiers' pensions.

As a result of diplomatic overtures, the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission, Colonel Semmens, visited this State to be followed a month or two ago by the Deputy Chairman, Colonel Tilney. Whilst being prepared to admit that many of the earlier medical decisions, which were based upon incomplete army records being available, may have been faulty, and a revision of entitlement and assessment justifiable in some of these cases, it has been difficult to reconcile the justification for many of the amendments involving substantial reductions in cases where all overseas papers have been on the files for many years, and where pensioners had been subject to many medical reviews by competent Repatriation Doctors. It must also be granted that many war disabilities have improved, but on the other hand many chronic war complaints must of necessity become worse with the increasing age of the pensioner. Those who felt that they may have been unfairly treated were advised to appeal, and in support of the Pension Committee's contention that standards in this State were falling, is the greatly increased percentage of successes from the Tribunals to that obtained in any of the Sister States.

Largely owing to the big percentage of successes on appeal, the status quo of pension rates has almost been maintained, and although the Pensions' Committee is not in a position to disclose the facts, an assurance is given that as a result of representations made to the Repatriation Commission an alleviation of the unsatisfactory state of affairs which has prevailed in this State for some time is assured.

Although the Repatriation Department of the Perth Hospital has been used extensively for investigation purposes, it must not be thought that this thorough examination always reacts against the pensioner. A soldier's health is the prime consideration, and a correct diagnosis of disability is essential before proper treatment can be given. No one is pleased with a reduction of income in these difficult times, but most pensioners do not complain provided they have confidence that the decision arrived at is just one.

It is just that confidence that the Pensions' Committee is anxious to restore in this State, and the members deprecate the extravagant and misleading statements which have been published lately, which have added difficulty to their task and created unjustified unrest amongst pensioners.

To-day the Pensions' Committee has the situation in hand, but cases of seeming injustice or of alleged harsh treatment should be brought to the notice of the State Executive through sub-branches. The Committee advises all who believe they have been unjustly treated not to fail to submit their appeal to the Tribunal concerned. The League has appointed advocates who are placed at the disposal of all who desire assistance in presenting their cases.

It will be remembered that in 1927-28 the League at, the instigation of the W.A. Branch, was responsible, after much opposition, for the creation of the War Pensions' Entitlement Appeal Tribunal and the War Pensions' Assessment Tribunal. The Pensions' Committee is definitely of the opinion that ex-service men should use this machinery.

It is the opinion of the Pensions' Committee that the pension position in this State does not call for undue alarm, inviting militant measures. The true position can be ascertained by a perusal of
The Listening Post

December 23, 1932

The following authentic comparative figures:

Numbers of Pensions.—Comparisons are drawn for the years 1930-31-32. At the end of each financial year (June 30) pensions were paid in Western Australia as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Widows</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Widow mothers of</th>
<th>Unmarried soldiers</th>
<th>Other mothers</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>412</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>415</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals: 3049, 2922, 2479

In respect of deceased soldiers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widows</td>
<td>6007</td>
<td>5949</td>
<td>5704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>11260</td>
<td>11274</td>
<td>10618</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dependants of incapacitated soldiers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wives</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mothers</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of war pensioners (including dependants):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28407</td>
<td>28063</td>
<td>26145</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A study of these figures will disclose that there were 2,062 fewer pensions paid in the State in 1932 than in 1930. These reductions are accounted for thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wives or widows</td>
<td>293</td>
<td></td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td></td>
<td>283</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mothers</td>
<td>431</td>
<td></td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other dependants</td>
<td>259</td>
<td></td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incapacitated soldiers</td>
<td>278</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The term "other mothers" includes mothers of deceased and incapacitated soldiers who were deemed to be dependent on their sons on enlistment.

More than half these reductions were a result of the Financial Emergency Act, which Act reduced or cancelled the allowances paid to certain pensioners, such as parents, who were not considered to be otherwise inadequately provided for, a contributing factor also being that since October 31st, 1931, new wives and children have been excluded from pension benefits.

Of the 278 fewer incapacitated soldiers’ pensions, 116 were cancelled in 1931, 72 of these being due to the death of the pensioner and 162 during 1932, 84 being due to the death of the pensioner. This position is far from satisfactory, in view of the fact that in 1930, the total number of incapacitated soldiers’ pensions throughout Australia was 74,778; in 1931, 77,316, and in 1932, 75,646, an increase in the two years of 1,068.

Pension Assessments.—The following is a comparison of the average fortnightly payments to incapacitated soldier over the period under review:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Australian Average</td>
<td>£1 18.9.9</td>
<td>£1 17 6.41</td>
<td>£1 16 3.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Average</td>
<td>£1 16.8.7</td>
<td>£1 17 6.41</td>
<td>£1 16 3.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the years under review, the average fortnightly payment, in this State, has been reduced by 1/9.06.

The average fortnightly payments vary considerably in the various States. At June 30th, this year, they were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>1932</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>£2 0 6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>£1 13 5.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>£1 17 2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>£1 18 11.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>£1 16 3.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>£2 2 11.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure.—The total expenditure on Western Australian war pensions for the year ending June, 1930, was £793,079; for 1931 the amount was £878,319, and for 1932, £698,356, involving a reduction of £5,760 in 1931, and a further reduction of £88,963 in 1932.

The £5,760 can be accounted for by the cancellation of the 116 soldiers’ pensions, together with those of their dependants. Of the £88,963, an amount of £85,940 is the saving effected by this State under the provisions of the Financial Emergency Act, the total war pension savings to Australia, under this Act, for the year, being £825,266.

The Pensions’ Committee trusts that this concise review will prove of value to pensioners and others, and will serve to allay the fear in the minds of many that a definite set had been made on war pensions throughout Australia or in this State. The figures quoted are official, and cannot be challenged. The only sane conclusion to be arrived at is that, although not satisfactory, the position is one that discloses that the League has the matter well in hand, and if pensioners will only use the facilities placed at their disposal, any recurrence of the recent unrest will undoubtedly be obviated.

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Why Join the R.S.L.?
(By E. St. Ives Bilston)

Your scribe happens to be domiciled within 200 metres of a crude shelter shed, built and utilised by the local soccer club in more prosperous times, but now required only as a place of convenience during the season for our Girls' Hockey Club, and a refuge for nomads and derelicts. What the writer has witnessed would make one's hair stand on end—innumerable instances of ex-heroes (which they were in war time) suffering privations indescribable.

One case in particular was that of an ex-petty officer of the British Navy, haggard and gaunt, no bedding of any sort, endeavouring to roast or grill a piece of sheep's fry, which he had picked up at the slaughter yard. He had drawn the issue of rations permitted, but was too ill or too broken to move on. At first he resented my trespassing on his privacy, but gradually let himself see, and related some of his war experiences, thus:

He was on the Formidable when she was torpedoed in the Bay of Biscay, and was also a survivor off the Invincible at Jutland. He had two decorations for D.S. conduct, good ditto discharge (unfit), etc., and had been on tramp eight months, cutting a bit of firewood here, weeding a garden there, etc., anything honest in order to keep body and soul together. Although I emptied my pockets, he would only accept 2/- in addition to what tobacco and matches I possessed. He had not enjoyed a smoke for months.

My niece, who is proprietor of the "Linga Longa" tea and refreshment rooms, plus heart as big as a bullock, in spite of being compelled to work fourteen hours or so daily in order to make ends meet during these times of 'stress, as well as teaching Sunday school and attending to divers duties where her voluntary services are indispensable, never lets a fellow-being sticken by force of circumstances go on the track hungry. An understanding or co-partnership exists between us; I to send all unavoidable along and foot the bill, she to "feed 'em up," but, although this cooperation has been in evidence for years, I have not yet been presented with an account rendered, though wayfaring dead-beats are still fed.

This existing state of affairs ought not to be, and it should not be left to individual effort to assist. Our local sub-branch of the R.S.L. has been doing its utmost to alleviate distress amongst ex-fighters, but although it has expended from £25 to £100 on necessitous cases, lack of enthusiasm on the part of one-time comrades renders its further activities in that respect limited, consequently, the down and out diggers, though he may have a couple of extra D.S. medals in what is left of his pocket through the exigencies of fate, must take "pot luck.

It is the duty of every ex-soldier who can scrape up 10/- to join up and stick to his own brotherhood, the "R.S.L." attend meetings in order to realise how the few "carrying the baby" are hampered in their endeavours to assist unfortunate diggers, their next-of-kin, etc., through lack of funds and support. There should be a prominent notice board in every country town to read thus: "All Soldiers Welcome!" And the wherewithal should be on hand to welcome all former comrades and see that at least one bright spot appears in their unenviable lives.

None would spongeth on, for no loafers tramp the bush when they could remain in one of the metropolitan camps.

Some ex-warriors declare that they cannot afford 10/- annually, but they manage to find considerably more to lay out on luxuries, such as Yankee-built cars and pictures, foreign produced petrol, wireless, etc., to say nothing of liquid refreshments, or "neck lubricants.

Were they to earmark 3d. a week for the purpose it would pay the sub., and leave a balance of 3/- to attend annual reunion, and get the LISTENING POST, their own organ, gratis. Others avow that they detest the president, and loathe the secretary, etc., suggesting that same are overpaid, spoilt adventurers, holding "cushy" jobs, when in reality they, with the loyal assistance of some half dozen supporters, are patriotically doing their utmost for the betterment of all ex-soldiers, irrespective of whether they are financial members or not.

Then we have the autostyled critic (the latter word being a misnomer, as a critic is one who may be labelled competent to judge), who, though knowing nothing of what is going on, takes the opposition for "agin' the guv'ment" sake, and does his utmost to poison the minds of others.

Think it over, boys! Your 10/- may have the effect of keeping an erstwhile beloved comrade off the rocks! How would we have fared when facing "Jacko" and Fritz if we had pulled asunder as we are doing at present? You may have no use for the R.S.L., but a great many others have it to thank for being "on the map." We all get indirect benefit from its operations, and it is a "fair crack of the whip" to let only a percentage do it all.

The Last Man

(Reproduced without permission, from The West Australian, December 24, 1932.)

"It's a great honour to be the last man, and a great responsibility to be the trustee of the last shilling, but you wouldn't believe how lonely it all is."

These were the sentiments expressed to our representative over a friendly pewter, in his living quarters at Anzac House, by Mr. James McPom Digger, the sole survivor of the once-famous Returned Soldiers' League. Hale, hearty, and vigorous in action and in speech, Mr. McPom Digger did not look anything like his ninety-five years. He is a living testimony to the efficacy of the serum injection which has now replaced the older monkey gland treatment, that was so popular during the first half of the century. He can still read small print without our spectacles, can run ten yards in a hundred seconds, and never misses his daily dozen at the Imperial or the Railway.

Like most great men he is modest. He was not inclined to speak of his war experiences, though it did leak out, in the course of conversation, that he played a prominent part in the Battle of the Wazir, an engagement which, by some oversight, is not mentioned in any of the official war histories. He also saw much service in another place neglected by the historians. Even Mr. McPom Digger seemed a little hazy as to its location, but from its name, "Clink," it was evidently somewhere in Flanders. He was more interesting when he gave a detailed ac-

Great many others have it to thank for being "on the map." We all get indirect benefit from its operations, and it is a "fair crack of the whip" to let only a percentage do it all.
count of the history of the League during the middle portion of the century. Looking back over the years, he seemed to find the battles of the committee room more enthralling than those of the firing line. This, of course, is as it should be. Before the establishment of universal peace, it took the world a long time to realise that talk is more important than action, and that men can be made good by passing resolutions. All the same, according to Mr. McPomm Digger, there were giants in those days.

"They were the days," he murmured reminiscently. "I got on to the State Executive the year Anzac House was opened. It was a memorable year. Colonel Collett was still State President — the boys wouldn't let him pull out till we were all fixed in the new quarters. Nugie, Farkie, and Jack Tozer, and a host of others were still going strong. Colonel Nicholson had just passed his famous Act for the relief of soldier settlers by doubling the price of wheat and wool. Sir James Mitchell had found jobs for everybody. The depression was just over, and the State Government had appointed three diggers to really important jobs. There was even talk of amending the constitution so that no one but diggers could be members of Parliament or of local government bodies. But the women voters turned that proposal down. The League was at its zenith. Unfortunately a peak point is always followed by a decline, and as the influence of women increased the League declined in importance.

"You see, ever since the Middle Ages canonised sex and called it chivalry, women have demanded the right to manage men's affairs. We forgot that we were dying off every year; and, as Mr. N. B. Richards and the various women's organisations had abolished war, we got no reinforcements. There were no other diggers to take our places. The women's auxiliaries were flourishing; so were the sons of soldiers' league and the grandsons of soldiers' leagues. The day came when these bodies became the real show and the R.S.L. the auxiliary.

"But I don't want to dwell too much on that," Mr. McPomm Digger added sorrowfully. "You want to hear about the men of those days. I'll never forget the weight-for-age competition between Dave Benson and Dick Bond. Dick won by a short head. Then Farkie challenged them both to a shaving contest, but there was an argument about a handicap, so it never came to anything. That was the year Alex. Panton was sued by the Mirror. "You see, the Mirror gave Alex. the best advertisement he's ever had in his life over the State Lotteries Bill. Lots of people thought Alex. should have paid up and looked pleasant, but the court gave him the verdict. There was another big argument over the Mount Lawley lighting scheme. The people out there forced the Electric Light Department to cut out all existing installations. You see, they did not need electric lights out there, when they had so many of those Israelites. We had a great night in Billy Clove's pub to celebrate the victory. Funny how things turned out. Alex. Panton took over the Mirror instead of them paying his costs. No, he wasn't a journalist, but he was a humdinger at making up crossword puzzles. He started a yo-yo competition, but there was such an uproar about all the prizes going to the State Executive that he had to drop it. "Billy Clove, in his old age, became an ardent prohibitionist. So did I for a while, but I had to chuck it, because I can't stand the taste of—cough—coffee beans. I made this decision the Christmas Arthur Nugent came down from Campion and spent a holiday

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with me, Cliff Gillett, Jack Keightley and Jim Whitten down at Mandurah. We didn't catch many fish, but the bait tailed all right.

"Speaking about these competitions, I nearly forgot to tell you about the shortest man contest between Carl Ferguson and Clarrie Fairlie. There was an awful roar when Carl got the decision, but then some of the mob always liked to chip the Executive. I think, myself, they'd rigged it up between themselves to get a good gate for a return match. At any rate, a lot of money changed hands over the event. Some of the Goldfields boys mortgaged their homes to back their man."

"Yes. It was all good fun while it lasted. The first hint that it could not last forever was when George Mellor publicly played the "Last Post" over the preference question. That was in 1942. Only fifty years ago, but it seems a long time. Poor old George. Some of the spiritualist people tell me he has a good job up above arranging the band competitions. Then diggers began to find difficulties in attending meetings. Some had to stay home and do the washing up while the women were away at the auxiliary, and the 'boys were at their sons of soldiers' sub-branches. Eventually we accepted the situation and transformed ourselves into an auxiliary and made other concerns the main show. At least, the 'ladies and the youngsters let us think we did. They've arranged a big Christmas Dinner for me this year, but it's going to be such a big show that I'll have to have mine in the kitchen."

"Jack Mulqueen became president of the Wheatgrowers Union, but when the price of wheat was permanently doubled, Jack had nothing to fight about, and he died of a broken heart." After Jimmy Cornell retired from politics he went into the church. He died of a fever brought on by trying to move an amendment to one of his own sermons. Jimmy Morgan became an Inspector of Schools. He was crushed to death trying to squeeze his way into one of the overcrowded State schools. It seems lonely without 'em all, but what can you expect.

**Personal**

Colonel Margolin has received a letter from Padre F. W. Wray, of the Rectory, Wangaratta, Victoria, acknowledging receipt of a copy of "The Old Sixteenth." He wishes his greetings to be conveyed to all local members of the 16th, especially those who were on the Ceramic and the Haidar Pasha.

Harvey Sub-branch's new president, B. Lofthouse, is a farmer of Wokalup. He is a member of several local organisations, and is always in demand as a committee man. He has not much to say unless what is said is worthy saying, and his criticisms, which are not infrequent, are always constructive and never carping. Loyal to constituted authority, even to a fault, he enjoys a well-deserved popularity. While Harvey Sub-branch was out of action he was a member of Bunbury.

Miss Ethel Campbell, of Durban, will be gratefully remembered by all diggers who passed through Durban, going to and from the war, forwards Christmas and New Year greetings to the President and members of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L. Accompanying the message is a book of verses, written by herself, entitled "Africa." Miss Campbell knows the history of her country, and is at her best in describing its scenery. To our mind the finest in the book is the sonnet, "The Valley of a Thousand Hills," which appeared in Francis Carey Slater's anthology, "The Centenary Book of South African Verse," 1925. A longer poem, "Sleep," written in the old heroic couplets, also found publication in the late, Mr. E. H. Crouch's anthology, "Gold Dust: South African Poetry," 1917.

Sir Donald Cameron and Mr. S. M. Bruce have been nominated by the Federal Executive of the League as Australian delegates to the Council of the British Empire Service League.

At the last State Executive meeting at the instigation of Col. Olden delegates passed a resolution of sympathy with the relatives of Mr. F. O. Gaze, governing director of Ezywalkin Ltd., who recently died suddenly in Melbourne. Mr. Gaze did yeoman service during the war, serving in Egypt and Palestine as honorary commissioner of trench comforts. Three of his sons, Irvine, Owen and Frederic, served their country in the war. The *Listening Post* joins with the League in sympathising with the relatives of this good friend of the digger.

Tom Tandy, M.M., the proprietor of Swan Brand Products, was during the month initiated as a member of the Perth Legacy Club. Tom's a glutton for work and will make a good Legatee. He was a fine soldier, being sergeant-major of the 16th Battalion, and the wonderful growth of his business is a tribute, not only to his ability, but to the high class of his goods. Although throughout the country returned men practically control the local governing bodies, Tom is the only digger on the Perth City Council.

Vic. Pascoe, who earned two pips with the 28th Battalion, recently returned from a visit to Sydney and Melbourne, where he met a few of his old digger pals. Vic. is Managing Director of Lynam Motors Ltd., of Perth, and a member of the Perth Legacy Club.

Mr. A. C. McCallum, the Grand Master of the Masonic fraternity in this
State, is a great helper and lover of the digger. It is one of the anomalies of the constitution of the League that Mr. McCallum is ineligible to wear the badge. He served in the front line for a long period as comforts fund commissioner with honorary commissioned rank, paying all his own expenses.

The retirement of Brigadier-General C. H. Brand will engender feelings of genuine regret in the breasts of ex-service men and those who are still serving. "Digger" Brand, as the troops call him, and as his nickname indicates, has been a front-line soldier in two wars and has always maintained a paternal interest in those under his command. Born in Queensland, fifty-nine years ago, he spent a few years in the teaching profession before joining the old Administrative and Instructional Staff of the Australian Military Forces. He saw service in South Africa, and went to Gallipoli as Brigade Major of the 3rd Brigade. After various promotions, he was placed in command of the 4th Brigade, which he led through the fighting in France. General Brand is one of the most human of our senior officers. He has that gift, attributed to Caesar, Napoleon, Sir William Birdwood and others, of remembering people, even after a lapse of years. He always made his staff work, but when it came to hard graft, he was always a point or two ahead of his staff. The service loses in more ways than one by his retirement. He is much younger than his years, and his store of experience and the tact with which he has always administered his various commands are invaluable. Promotion to the rank of Major-General would have secured his services to the country for a year or two longer. It would have been a fitting recognition of his outstanding war service and administrative service in times of peace. For some reason, not apparent to straightforward men, this promotion has been withheld, so that, to our mind, both General Brand and Australia have received a very raw deal.

Brigadier Francis B. Heritage, who succeeds Brigadier-General C. H. Brand as Quartermaster-General, is a Tasmanian by birth. His father was for many years an inspector of schools in Tasmania, and Brigadier Heritage served with a Tasmanian contingent in the South African War. He joined the Administrative and Instructional Staff, now the Staff Corps, and soon established a reputation for himself as a musketry expert. He qualified at the Hythe School of Musketry and was the practical founder and first commandant of the School of Musketry, as it was then called, at Randwick, New South Wales. In 1914, he was Brigade Major to the force which captured the German possessions in New Guinea. On his return to Australia, he carried on, with instructional and administrative work in Australia, until he went to France in 1917. For some time after the war he was commandant of the Royal Military College at Duntroon. Before his latest promotion he was Commandant, 2nd Military District, and of the R.M.C., which is now situated in Sydney. Brigadier Heritage has always been a keen student and is, in his way, quite a dandy. His lectures are masterpieces of literary English, bristling with epigrams. Some years ago, an unofficial musketry text book was published, ostensibly written by an English instructor named Boscock. There is good reason for believing that Brigadier Heritage, if he did not actually write the book, gave it some editorial supervision before publication. At all events, it contains several of the Brigadier's characteristic turns of expression. This probably induced a lazy student officer, on one occasion, to hand in a notebook in which he had written: "For the remainder of the lecture, see Boscock, pages so-and-so." Imagine his consternation when he received it back with the addition: "And for the sequel, see Heritage, Orderly Room!"

Readers will regret to learn that our friend and comrade, E. P. Byrne (late 44th Battalion), the popular host of the Guildford Hotel, has suffered a bereavement in the loss of an infant daughter, who passed away on December 2. The "Listening Post" joins with his many friends in tendering the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy and condolence.

Genial George Mellor, Secretary of the Perth Sub-branch, has not been in the best of health for some time, and is now having a spell of sick leave. We hope to see him his usual smiling self before very long.

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(By "M.H.M.")

THE LATE E. F. PARKER
W.A.'s Most Prominent Athlete

Gunner E. F. Parker, the well-known cricketer, tennis player, and golfer, has been killed in France whilst fighting with the Australian forces.

West Australian, 16th May, 1918.

This poignant message, conveyed to the public in the usual terse military style, caused a wave of sympathetic sorrow to spread throughout the length and breadth of our State. The name of "Ernie" Parker had for long been on the lips of everyone interested in sport in this State, and in other States of Australia as well. It does not fall to the lot of many so to impress their personality on the mind of the sporting public, as did Ernie Parker. His athletic deeds are fresh in the memory to-day; his popularity still spoken of; and the memory of his death in action honoured by all.

As returned soldiers we may take especial pride in the thought that the greatest of all W.A.'s athletes was himself a digger, following the only course of duty he thought right, and making the supreme sacrifice. We salute the memory of his life and deeds.

A remarkable aspect of Ernie's sporting career was his outstanding success in three distinct branches of field games. He excelled in cricket, tennis, and golf, the first mentioned being his favourite sport. His cricketing powers waned when he was afflicted with failing eyesight, and this misfortune eventually forced him to retire from the game he loved so well.

Commenting on his ability as a batsman, local and Eastern States critics invariably made use of the highest possible terms of praise. He has been described as a wizard with the bat, possessing all the known orthodox strokes, and many unorthodox ones in addition. He would attack the bowling from the first ball delivered, and the ball would leave the bat like a flash, due to perfect timing. The famous J. J. Lyons wrote of him as follows: "Ernie Parker is my fancy, and a great cricketer he is. I cannot imagine that there are many better batsmen in Australia at present than he is. What pleased me most of all was the number of strokes he has—one a beautiful hook, a feature of which is the easy and graceful way he has of bringing it off. Then he has a lovely square cut past point, which travels to the boundary like a shot. I like also the way he jumps at a slow half-volley. Altogether, I place him in the first eight batsmen in Australia. He is also a beautiful field." It should be mentioned here that Ernie Parker was frail in figure, which makes his performance the more extraordinary.

As a lad, playing for High School, at the age of 14, he compiled a wonderful century. Later, in Adelaide, in the "Saints versus Princes" contests, he proved an outstanding performer. In local pennant cricket he played for Wanderers and East Perth, and performed many wonderful deeds. In one match against East Fremantle, going in when three wickets had fallen cheaply, he strung together 200 runs, and was out just on time. Another great effort was his innings of 249 for East Perth against North Perth, made in three hours against such bowlers as E. Bishop, Raynor, and Grogan.

He was a century maker in Interstate cricket, and against New South Wales in one match; he made 69 in 40 minutes without a chance. Playing against South Australia on the Fremantle Oval, he played the opening over from a fast bowler named Hansen, and despatched 5 of the first 6 balls to the boundary by perfect cricket.

He received an invitation to play for The Rest of Australia against The Australian Eleven in Sydney and Melbourne. The first match was spoilt by rain, but in the second he opened the innings for The Rest with Mayne, and was first out with the score board showing under 100 runs, of which he made 77. Tommy Horan, the great cricket scribe, referred to this performance as "the very champagne of cricket."

Ernie Parker gained a great reputation as a tennis player, winning the title of State Champion. In exhibition games against such world champion as Brookes, Wilding, and others, he played wonderfully fine tennis. After retiring from cricket, he took up golf, and was speedily forcing his way to the forefront in this game.

Ernie enlisted in 1916, and left Melbourne for the front in 1917. He was only in France six months when he was killed near Hazebrouke, on the 2nd May, 1918. At the time of his death he was serving as a bombardier in the 102nd Howitzer Battery. Prior to enlistment, he was articled to the firm of Parker and Parker, Solicitors, of which his father was a member. He passed his law examination, and was admitted to the West Australian Bar.

W.A.C.A. versus W.A.C.A. SOLDIERS

This match, which will recall memories to many ex-digger cricketers, was played...
on the W.A.C.A. ground on December 27th, 1919. While not having taken place during the years of actual combat, the match is, nevertheless, worth recording, as it was arranged officially by the W.A. Cricket Association, to commemorate the return from active service of the majority of the W.A.C.A. soldier-cricketers.

The match was a whole day one, and resulted in a narrow victory for the W.A.C.A. team. Batting first, W.A.C.A. made 236, the principal contributors to this total being Don. Sinclair, 81 not out; Tim Howard, 51; Harold Rowe, 27; Dr. Barrack, 26; and Alf. Randall, 23.

The bowling figures for the diggers were:—R. Blundell, 3/24; F. Watts, 1/12; J. Bryant, 1/10; J. Herbert, 1/18; A. Meek, 1/44; and Brown, 1/49.

The W.A.C.A. soldiers replied with 208, being therefore defeated by 28 runs.

As it is of particular interest to our readers, we will give the names of the diggers’ team—and their scores, which are as follows:—Montgomery, 36; R. Blundell, 14; J. Bryant, 0; J. Herbert, 2; A. Meek, 23; F. Watts, 24; G. Jameson, 58; L. Renfrey, 33; M. Mundy, 4; H. Jarman; 1; Brown, not out; 1; Sundries, 12; Total, 208.

Bowling for W.A.C.A.:—A. Christian, 5/87; A. Evans, 2/13; Dr. Barrack, 2/34; F. Buttsworth, 0/31; E. Edmondson, 0/31.

Example is better than precepts: let us be the first to set it.

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FIRE :: MARINE :: ACCIDENT

A recent French Army Order prohibits the playing of Yo-Yo in barracks, and prescribes severe penalties for offenders. According to the published report, artillerymen seem to be the worst offenders. France has never been particularly strong in the cavalry arm, and she should seize the opportunity of capitalising on the craze by transferring these frivolous gunners to Yo-Yo-mantry regiments.

Congress decided “That further efforts be made to obtain water reticulation for South Moorine Rock.”

The Minister for Country Water Supplies, Mr. J. Lindsay, M.L.A., has advised the League that two schemes were at one time under consideration, one estimated to cost £14,000, and the other £88,000. The financial position has not improved since he wrote to the League on May 11th last, so that even if the majority of the settlers petitioned for either of the two works to be proceeded with, and undertook to pay a rate of 6d. per acre, together with the holding fee of £5 each, the work could not be proceeded with.

Dumb Dora thought that the Leg Ah See Club was a Chinese cabaret.

The Western Australian V.C.’s are, as usual, assured of a Merry Christmas. They can always raise a Carroll and a Jimmie Woodser in spite of the depression.

Hans Bertram has had the bad luck of damaging his plane once more:—
Some for the glories of this world enthuse
And chase new records through the cloudy blues.
I take the crash and let the credit go,
And score another headline in the News.

One of the “big” scenes in Noel Coward’s play, “Cavalcade,” is the departure of the City Imperial Volunteers for the Boer War. The annual re-union

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(By W.A., from Njookienbooroo)

Relayed or delayed from Ward 11, Perth Public Hospital, by the kind permission of the Repatriation Department, through the newly installed plant, 1001, Pension Record, obtained on the Esplanade.

Nurse: Your name, address, &c.
Patient: Yes, I am— of
Nurse: Now, the name of your nearest friend in case anything happens.
Patient: Donald J. Chipper, Perth.
Nurse: But that's the undertaker.
Patient: Well, won't he be my best friend if anything happens?

Curtain.

Patient: I want a transfer, Sister Jones.
Sister Jones: Well, what's the trouble?
Patient: I want tranquility, peaceful surroundings. The motor cars, the clamorous, turbulent atmosphere of the railway, that engine of torture the hospital syren announcing the hours of the day, the chimies of the Town Hall clock, disturb the sensitive nature of my constitution. I am highly susceptible, I shrink from even the touch of the nurses when on their temperature tours; I—

Sister Jones: Well, where do you want to be transferred?
Patient: Lemnos, please.
Sister Jones: You'll get there all right, if you keep on this language test.

Nurse: What is "Come over here," in French, digger?
Soldier Patient: Tip Toe Alley, Boolong, Osborne PArkitis.

Bilharzia is a disease some diggers contracted in Egypt; a parasitic fluke found in the blood supply of the liver. The usual weekly visit of Mr. Canton, M.L.A., Leederville, was being made when he was bailed up by a suffering digger: "Can't the Executive do something about this bilharzia?"

Mr. Canton, M.L.A.: Well, what about him? I might have met him, but almost every other West Australian was named Bill. What battalion did he belong to?

It was some hours before the patient responded to the restoratives immediately applied.

Old Bill was in a happy mood after the tuberculin injections, and he used detail to the matron and sister in charge, when on their morning inspection, how, when in the No. 1 A.A.H. (Harefield) he told the squire's daughter that he was a boundary rider on a bee farm, how in his citadel at Osborne Park he spent his time in ringbarking asparagus; how he was also employed in Egypt shoeing the camels, and that when he got wounded he was a tunneller in the flying corps. Matron was impressed by the strange tales, but Sister Jones only winked the other eye.

Sister: Bill, what is the meaning of these lines?

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News of League doings
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   Nor iron bars a cage."

Patient Bill: Ward II.

The M.O. was inspecting and was told by a patient in reply to the usual medical formula: "Bad night, sir, I dreamt that I saw a flock of emus approaching our "

M.O.: Well, and did you fire on them?
Patient: Oh, no sir (with a voice of sarcasm). We all sprang to attention and blew kisses to 'em.

Fertilizer to Group Settlers

Notice of Motion No. 4 of the State Congress this year, referred to future supplies of fertilizer to group settlers, and, having approached the department, the League has been advised by Mr. McCay, Secretary for Group Settlement, that the present instruction of the Trustees is to supply fertilizer for seeding where seed is supplied, and for top-dressing to settlers with fewer than ten cows.

Settlers with ten or more cows are expected to make their own arrangements, and terms have been agreed to by super merchants.

Where the interests of the security demand it, super has been supplied to settlers with ten or more cows, but each case is dealt with on its merits, and there is no general policy laid down.

Diseases of Stock

This year’s Congress urged the Government to enforce the Act re infectious diseases of stock, especially cases of T.B., Lumpy Jaw, and Contagious Abortion.

In reply to the representations made, the Director of Agriculture, Mr. G. L. Sutton, has advised the League that as far as finance and staff permits, the Department does enforce the law regarding the diseases mentioned.

The Director points out, however, that particular attention is paid to T.B. and Lumpy Jaw, and the Dairy Cattle Compensation Act applies to the metropolitan area. Under this Act, all cattle affected with these diseases are destroyed, and the owner compensated. Furthermore, the Department is at all times prepared to cooperate with local governing bodies in the control of these diseases in country districts.

Re Contagious Abortion. This is a disease which cannot be controlled by regulations, but its effect can be minimised, the Director states, by intelligent control by cattle owners. The Department is assisting in this direction by laboratory diagnosis, advice, and the distribution of literature.

Gorblimey, 1915

(By Ethel Campbell)

(From “Africa, A Book of Verses,” by Ethel Campbell, published by Robinson and Co. Ltd., Durban, 1932.)

He was wearing a little gorblimey hat,
Our “knit” of a year ago,
In a khaki suit, there’s a new recruit
Gone out to face the foe.
What though he once wore flaming ties,
And socks with clocks of enormous size,
He’s helping to wipe the German’s eyes,
Gorblimey!

Was he a swank or a dandy then?
Or was he known as a “fop”?
The “knock-about-town” with his
gloves of brown,
The “knit” with the gold-cane-top.
He wasn’t a shirker despite his kit,
He has proved his pluck, he has proved his grit,
He’s serving old England—he’s doing his bit.
Gorblimey!

He’s giving his life for a mighty cause,
In a little gorblimey hat,
And the socks are gone that the clocks were on,
But his feet aren’t cold for that.
Did we speak with scorn of the way he dressed?
Ah, we did not know that the gaudy vest
Covered the heart in a hero’s breast!
Gorblimey!

There’s a lonely grave by a broken road
“Somewhere in France” to show
That, game to the last, from the fight he passed
Our “knit” of a year ago.
Did we think of him coldly in by-gone years?
We hail him to-day with a nation’s cheers,
An Empire’s gratitude, and tears!
Gorblimey!

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"Bud the Monkey and Other Tales of Soldiers' Pets" : Told by Lin MacDonald; illustrated by Angus MacDonald; with an introduction by General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O. Angus & Robertson Ltd., Sydney. Out copy from the publishers; price, five shillings.

If the digger, was sometimes unkind to Germans, Turks and military policemen, he always maintained a tender regard for the more domesticated members of the brute creation. Major MacDonald's book recounts the experiences of the monkey, the pony, the lamb that grew too fat, horses, dogs and others of whom the digger in his more expansive moods made wartime pets. The tales, which are written for children between the ages of seven and seventy, contain much humour and not a little pathos, and the volume in which they appear should prove an ideal Christmas gift book. In the foreword, Sir Ian Hamilton says many nice things about the Anzacs and has what should be the last word of the argument as to who invented the honoured name. "Sir William Birdwood," he says, "was the first in the alphabetical game, using the word in cables and telegrams," before Sir Ian appeared upon the scene, but Sir Ian "was the first to write it boldly, without apology or explanation, over and over again in an official despatch to the most terribly correct and strictly regulation body, the War Office, thus letting the whole English-speaking world know of the Anzacs."

State Executive Meetings

November 23, 1932

At the meeting held on November 23, there were present Messrs. Collett, Yeates, Freedman, Philip, Olden, Nicholson, Nugent, Watt, Lovell, Tozer, Margolin, Edmonds, Mallow, Cornell, Zefler, Abeler, and McDowell. An apology was received from Colonel Denton. Messrs. Riley, Fairley and Farquharson were granted leave of absence.

Harvey River Diversion.—The State Secretary reported that another letter had been received from the Harvey River Diversion Sub-branch which expressed appreciation of the Minister's declared policy of preference to returned soldiers, and that other matters referred to in the letter, concerning the welfare of members of the sub-branch, had been taken up with Mr. Ross McIlravy, M.L.A.

New Member.—The State President formally welcomed Mr. L. J. McDowell, who had been appointed to the Executive to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Walker's resignation. The State Secretary's report referred to a preference matter in one of the Government Departments, and mentioned that every courtesy and consideration is being shown the League in its advocacy of the claims of ex-service men.

Another impending apology! The following is an extract from a State Executive delegate's report on a visit to a country centre: "Mr. Mellor was most generous in assisting the music. There were no complaints."
withheld from patients under treatment in Ward 11. In view of the unusual circumstances surrounding each case that matter had been taken up with the Department and reconsideration had been requested.

Art. Union Committee.—The Secretary reported on the progress made by the League in disposing of 30,000 tickets and mentioned that he had drawn the attention of the Control Board to the fact that publicity in the newspapers did not mention that the consultation was being conducted to benefit the League. This action was endorsed.

Anzac House.—Proposals arising out of Col. Olden’s report were deferred for consideration to an extraordinary meeting of the Executive, to be held on November 30, when the report of delegates to the Federal Congress will also be considered.

Visits.—The following visits were reported:

Colonel Nicholson: Kooro, Bencubbin and Trayning;
Colonel Nicholson and Mr. Farquharson: Dalwallinu and Moora;
Mr. Cornell: Moorine Rock, Salmon Gums and Esperance;
Mr. Nugent: Subiaco;
Mr. Edmonds: Tramways;
Messrs. Aber and Philip: Goolwa;
Mr. Denton: a meeting of the Ex-Service Engineers and Allied Units; Messrs. Wells and Hunt: Darling Range;
Messrs. Watt and Tozer: reporting attended an Armistice Service at the Ross Memorial Church, West Perth.

Federal Correspondence.—Communications received from the Federal Office intimated that vacancies for linesmen in the P.M.G.’s Department would be filled by officers already in the service. As a result of protests, it has been decided that a questionnaire for tabulating staff for the 1933 Census would be held in all State capitals, but that no travelling allowance would be paid to the appointees.

Wheat Bonus.—The Secretary quoted telegrams which had passed between this branch and the Federal Office in connection with the deputation which waited upon the Prime Minister and on which the League was not represented. A telegram from Bencubbin on the same matter was received.

War Pensions.—Letters expressing appreciation of the action taken by the Executive were received from the Claremont and Victoria Park Sub-branches.

State War Memorial.—Mr. William Latham advised the League that the final meeting of the War Memorial Committee had taken place, and that all cash in current account, books and papers were now handed over to the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L. Sir William Latham, himself, Colonel Collett and Colonel Lamb would continue as Trustees of the McNeSS Fund. This letter was received and a resolution of appreciation of the services rendered by Sir William Latham in connection with the erection of the State War Memorial was recorded on the suggestion of Rabbi Freidman.

Douglas Credit System.—A letter received from a correspondent at Maddington was laid on the table.

W.A. Aged Sailors and Soldiers’ Fund.—Mr. Hubert Parker, M.L.A., advised that the Bill had passed the Assembly but had been slightly amended in the Legislative Council, and was now before the Assembly again.

General.—Approval was given for Mr. R. Baker, a blighted soldier, being elected an honorary member, under Rule 5. The Secretary reported that the Wanneroo Sub-branch had been in existence for over twelve months and that he had unsuccessfully endeavored to recover books, papers, etc. On his recommendation it was decided that the matter be placed in the hands of the League’s solicitors.

Letters from the R.S.I. Cricket Association, notifying names of officers and dates of fixtures, and from Kelmscott Sub-branch about the price of newspapers, were received.

Colonel Olden moved successfully that the League’s suggestion that as last the Light Horse Memorial has been completed and unveiled be recorded.

Before the conclusion of the meeting Mr. W. J. Lovell was congratulated on the recent addition to his family.

30th November, 1932

At the extraordinary meeting held on November 30, there were present Messrs. Collett, Yeates, Freedman, Philip, Denton, Olden, Hunt, Watt, Lovell, Tozer, Pady, Margolin, Mellor, Zeffert, Aberle and McDowell. Apologies were received from Messrs. Edmonds and Cornell. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Riley, Fairley and Farquharson.

Federal Congress.—Colonel Olden presented a detailed report of the recent Federal Congress and after Mr. W. J. Lovell had added his impressions of the Congress, it was unanimously agreed on the motion of Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Eldred, that the delegations be adopted and that they be thanked for their work on behalf of the W.A. Branch.

Vacancies, Empire Council.—The Secretary read telegrams which had passed between the Federal President, setting out that Captain S. M. Brumfield and Cameron were suggested as Australia’s representatives on the Empire Council in London. The nominations from the Federal Office had been approved by the State President and his action was confirmed.

Workmen, Ordinance Store.—Telegrams which had passed between this branch and the Federal Office were read and the information conveyed to the returned soldiers concerned.

South Perth.—The appointment of Mr. H. S. Thompson as secretary of the South Perth sub-branch was confirmed.

Anzac House Proposals.—Colonel Olden, before presenting his report, moved that the Executive go into committee. This was agreed to. Colonel Denton then reported in detail what had been done by the committee in connection with the discussions which had taken place between prominent people who were in a position to give valuable advice and assistance. The State Secretary supplemented the report and traversed the League’s tenancy of the present soldiers’ premises. After discussion, it was agreed, on the motion of Colonel Olden, seconded by Colonel Denton, that the expenditure on the proposed new premises be limited to £23,000, this amount to cover all commission fees and furniture. It was further resolved, on the motion of Colonel Olden, seconded by Mr. Tozer, that a competition be conducted under the rules of the Institute of Architects, and amongst returned soldiers in the profession for suitable designs for the proposed building.

The Secretary was authorised to confer with the press representatives to secure suitable publicity for the League’s proposals in the erection of Anzac House.

7th December, 1932

At this meeting there were present Messrs. Collett, Riley, Yeates, Freedman, Panton, Philip, Olden, Pady, Hunt, Nugent, Watt, Lovell, Tozer, Margolin, Parfuro, Zeffert, Aberle and McDowell. An apology was received from Colonel Denton.

The following recommendations from the Management Committee were adopted:

That the views of the proprietors of “The Listening Post” be obtained regarding the instruction of the State Congress to the State Executive, to offer “The Listening Post” the status of the official organ of the League.

That the Congress resolution in favour of reducing the price of the Women’s Auxiliary badges be referred to the State Executive, Women’s Auxiliary, for suggestions.

That financial members of the Branch be invited to submit designs (plain and coloured) for an improved Certificate of Service, and that the following sums, or such lesser sums as the State Executive may determine, be set aside as prizes: for the design of the first design, £5; for the second design, £2; for the third design, £1.

That, having perused the documents submitted by the Federal Office, this Branch records its approval of the Victorian Branch’s application for the posthumous award of the League’s Certificate of Merit to the late Hon. Harold Hitchcock, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.L.C., of Geelong.
The Listening Post
December 23, 1932

Sub-Branch Notes

TRAMWAY
The annual meeting took place on Tuesday, December 13, and a large number attended to elect the officers for the coming year. The election resulted—President, Mr. W. W. E. Brickhill and Mr. E. Davidson; Treasurer, Mr. E. Frankland; Secretary, Mr. F. W. W. Sunders. The first annual smoke social was held in the Railway Institute on November 13, 1932, and was voted a great success, there being about 180 present, who thoroughly enjoyed the function. The State Executive were represented by Messrs. Edmonds and Nugent. Bill Clayes was there to support Maylands, whilst amongst the boys was Mr. T. G. M. Melle: The thanks of the sub-branch are due to Mr. C. B. Tournay and W. C. Crowe of the social committee for their work in connection with the smoke social.

CORRIGAN
On Armistice Day the two-minute’s silence was observed, the hour of eleven being signalled by the firing of a shot. In the evening the first Armistice Service was held in the Memorial Hall. Included in the parade were the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. After the two minutes silence the Chairman, Father Fray, placed a wreath before the Honour Roll. The hall was well filled. Suitable addresses were given by Mr. Haswell and Ray, Finch.

The same day the President took a party of five to Beverley to attend the Annual Re-union of the sub-branch. The party returned the following evening, one of the guests being Miss C. Gibb, of the Submarine Association. One of the highlights of a social night was the sight of a group of diggers standing in the street.

Our own "Hopover" took place in the Corrigan Town Hall on November 17, and was preceded by the annual general meeting, at which the outgoing Executive Officers and Committee were re-elected, with the valuable addition of Mr. M. Savory (Cable Corps), in place of Mr. H. Bridge, who has been compelled by ill-health, and, much to our regret, to drop out. It is a tribute to the President, George White, that there was a record attendance of about 70 at the Re-union. Amongst the visitors were Messrs. J. Hudson (Beverley's Secretary), E. Bridger (Quairading), J. Lawton and Watt, (Yealering). Nine tests were honourd during the evening, while a roll-call of those present and the former units, helped those present to know one another. Musical items were interspersed, and the evening was a great success, though the personal contact with State Executive was greatly missed. We quite understand that the front cannot be everywhere at once, and that there are many Re-union in the one week. Their unavoidable absence has brought home to us how much we do appreciate them when they are able to come along. Fortunately, nine new members joined in the following week, and many of them are enjoying the break-up of the depression to follow such an event.

We much regret the loss of Wally Wray, one of our talented members, who always contributed to our entertainment, and who has now left the district. And finally a word for...
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**DIGGERS! YOU ASK FOR PREFERENCE! GIVE IT!**
The sub-branch fund has a balance of £9 3s. 9d. In connection with the North-West disabilities, it was decided to defer any further action until the next meeting, in view of the fact that the report of the recent commission may be available for discussion by that time.

The dance on November 25, in aid of the amelioration fund, was one of the most successful functions during Carnarvon week. Over 198 persons attended, and the net proceeds amounted to £21. The "Mega" orchestra, under the leadership of Miss Mary Mac, provided the music. Mr. W. Willett sang the refrains during the dancing. The supper arrangements, at the Buffet d'Anzac, were made by the Women's Auxiliary. Much credit for the success of the arrangements is due to Mrs. Ferguson Stewart, President, and Mrs. McCracken, Secretary, and their band of willing helpers. Cough mixture was proved at the Etatbanet d'Estingy. The entertainment was such a success that a similar one is to be held during Anzac Week.

No. 2 DISTRICT COMMITTEE

The first annual re-election dinner of the No. 2 District Committee was held at Bencubbin on November 19. About 200 guests sat down to enjoy the excellent repast, the Mount Marshall Sub-branch acting as hosts. The catering arrangements were carried out by the Bencubbin Branch of the C.W.A. Tea girls of the Association's local branch did splendid service as voluntary waitresses. There is no Women's Auxiliary at Bencubbin, but the majority of the soldiers' wives belong to the C.W.A. Mr. E. H. Rice, President of the Mt. Marshall Sub-branch, presided. The guests included Colonel Nicholson and Mr. D. M. Benson, representing the State Executive, Messrs. F. L. Warmer and L. Brockway— the No. 2 District Committee, Messrs. George Mellor and Jack McQueen, Perth Sub-branch; Captains Longnecker, Pross and Arthur P. Nugent, Campion; together with a full representation of members of the District Committee Sub-branches. Messrs. T. C. Wilson, State President Women's Auxiliary, R.S.L., was also present, and delivered addresses to the ladies there, and at the special meeting of the C.W.A. on November 21. After an excellent dinner the toast list and musical items filled in the evening until midnight. Musical and other items were contributed by Mrs. T. E. Atkinson and Messrs. Alf. Bagshaw, R. Swan, Fimister, Alex. Leslie, G. S. Mellor, Walter Bagshaw and the proceedings concluded with a sketch which, according to the producer, demanded of the hearer a vivid imagination, an ear dead to music, an eye blind to beauty, and a singularly innocent nature. The actors were Messrs. E. N. McKechnie, R. Swan, E. H. Rice, R. F. Beakell, F. Le Cras, and H. S. Smith.

The committee is indebted to the following ladies and gentlemen for accompaniments and for dance music—Medames Bagshaw and Casey, Messrs. Polkinghorne and Brackenreg.

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December 23, 1932
The sub-branch is now arranging a picnic for the ladies and children on December 17, at Point Walter. A large crowd is expected, and a good time guaranteed.

NORTH PERTH
A DIGGER’S DIARY
(With profound apologies to the shades of Samuel Pepys)

Nov. 19th—News of the membership committee meeting last night; much business done, I hear. To have more “drivers” against making 200 members to next year.

Nov. 21st—To sub-branch general meeting, and no sooner come, when Mr. Jack Watson (Roll Keeper) do call me to sign the roll book, which I did. It pleasing to see him: a man so keen of his duty, to call those who miss him, that he might keep his book in good order.

Business of the evening done, after much talk, thence to games, and raffle half dozen ale, which Mr. Phil. Warne, of North Perth ale house, did give for general funds. Mr. Alf Hope to win it, and, by and by do discover one bottle “souvenired.” Lord! How this do remind me of the A.L.F. Mr. Hope to go off much like a 6-9, and say “dirty doe,” but all for naught, me-think, he, looking in the past again, and all six there. So did open them and we all to help him drink it, which was soon done. A good supper of coffee, biscuits and cheese. Home to bed.

Nov. 24th—I to Mr. J. Rankin’s home, social committee meeting, and set to the business of the poppy day workers’ social; we all full of schemes against making an enjoyable evening for our ladies. Mr. “Bunny” Richmond did vex me, he busting in, like prating wench, when others talking. Mr. Rankin to give us a dainty supper of cakes and other good things. Home about 11 o’clock.

Dec. 2nd—Met Mrs. Middleton, who tells me that our Women’s Auxiliary team did win handsomely at tennis, against Mr. Lawley Auxiliary, last Wednesday afternoon, which I was pleased at.

Dec. 3rd.—Heard this day of Mr. D. James (Chairman, Sub-branch Sports Club), buying a gun and making a target for members to practice at shooting. By good chance meet Mr. Hawkins, who tells me the good news that North Perth play “top the poll” and make a record for the State for Poppy Day. This make me glad, and proud to be a member of North Perth Sub-branch.

Dec. 4th.—To Wellington Square, there see North Perth play their second match of district sub-branch cricket. Cottesloe sub-branch being against them. I criket in great that we have a win, but to my ill content, do see us lose again. Cottesloe to have a three-point win. I pleased only to see good bowling by Mr. F. Yoeman (Cottesloe), he getting 6 wickets for 36 runs, and L. Minchin (North Perth), 7 wickets for 61 runs. Mr. L. Hetherington did invite Mr. King, Minchin and myself into his motor coach, and carry us home, which was very kind of him, methought.

Dec. 5th.—Up betimes and do some business against the Poppy Day social, this night. Home to dinner, and, after dressing myself handsomely, away to St. Hilda’s Hall. A mighty crowd of company there, more, methinks, as I did ever see inside any hall. I stand with other gentlemen, there being no room for sitting, and hear fine music and singing, and watch the ladies play at games. Among the company I did spy Colonel Collett, and pleased I was to see him, at our social, he being a man held in great esteem by all the diggers. Then I spy Mr. Dave Benson and his brother. By and by Mrs. Richmond did call me and introduce Mrs. F. C. Wilson (President, State Auxiliary), Mrs. E. Hopperston (Secretary, State Auxiliary), and other ladies. I to feel all puffed up, like a pigeon, at being in such fine company. Away to the kitchen, there see Mr. N. Helier, Mr. L. Hetherington, Mr. A. Reberm and Mr. J. Middleton; all working hard at preparing supper and cool drinks. Methinks it might fine credit to these gentlemen, working all the time, that others may enjoy themselves.

Anon supper, and Mr. Hawkins to march in, carrying a big pig’s head on a tray, and dressed hindsmouth, and for all the world like a fat French chef, and followed by twelve gentlemen dressed with little sponges and caps, like made-moiselles, carrying coffee and good things to eat. Lord! How all the company did fall to scraching with laughter, at seeing them. I in a fright that some might split with such mirth. A mighty fine parade, and very well done. A good supper to home to bed in very good content of such a merry night.

Dec. 10th—I to St. Hilda’s Hall and see the Children’s Christmas Party of our Auxiliary. It pretty to see the children, all singing, laughing and playing to be made deafe of the din.

Dec. 11th.—To the general committee, there among other business was that of gifts to our unemployed members, that their homes may have a little more cheer this Christmas time. Mr. O. Newmarich (Treasurer) to give a statement of accounts, £55 in amelioration funds and £400 in general funds, and all accounts paid to date. Mr. Hawkins then to tell us, our membership is 171, and said his, “I will eat my hat if we have not 200 by next, which I would be mighty glad to see; that is, that we get that number, I mean. A vote of much praise to Mr. Jago and his special committee for the successful manner they did carry out the business of the progressive raffle. This being the last committee meeting of this year, Mr. C. G. Sadler (President) did wish all a very merry Christmas, and so, after a glass of ale, home to dinner.

FREMANTLE

The annual meeting was held at the R.S.I. Institute, South Terrace, Fremantle, on Thursday, December 1, 1932. About fifty members were present. The principle business of the evening was the election of officers, the nominations for which took place a fortnight earlier. Competition was very keen and resulted as follows:

President, Mr. J. W. Lynch; Vice-President, Messrs. Theo. Brennan and T. Bell; Secretary, Mr. P. S. Duns (reelected); Treasurer, Mr. A. C. Kimber; Trustees, Mr. Jack Barfield and Mr. W. Richardson; Minute Secretary, Mr. A. E. Pady; Publicity Officer, Mr. A. J. Jagg; Auditors, Messrs. G. Thompson and W. Griffiths; Sports Director and Librarian, Mr. J. C. Nicholl.

The Sports Director definitely announced that all competitions in rifle shooting, quoits, bridge and bowls will close on December 22.

The notice of all ex-service men is drawn to the fact that there are six new billiard tables at the Institute, and all are invited to come along and make use of them. There is also a library. Books may be procured at an opening cost of 6d., and 2d. on exchange for each book.

PRESS

The gatherings of the Press Sub-branch generally present some novel and interesting feature. The quarterly dinner on December 10, was a Christmas dinner and dance at which the members of the Women’s Auxiliary and the Sub-branch combined to entertain a large number of their friends. It was a triumph of good management and cordial hospitality. The guests of honour were Lieut-Gen Mr. J. Talbot and Col. Lawley, and Mrs. Collett. Sir Talbot and the Colonel were both in a reminiscent vein, which was greatly appreciated by their hearers. Vice-President John Chappell made a very happy speech, proposing the health of the League. Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Smith told tales on each other, and Mrs. J. E. Sorensen,
though she seemed a little nervous at first, efficiently addressed the mixed gathering. Miss Rockie Davidson played Valse Parisiennne in charming style and afterwards accompanied other performers. Mrs. Irv Birtwhistle’s song earned rounds of applause, while the male vocalists were ably represented by Mr. President C. Longmore took the chair in his usual happy style. Secretary Reg. Bigges was the busy man of the evening. When not bustling round on his secretarial duties he managed to find time to stroke his ‘cello through the intricacies of Sibelius’s Valse Triste. Dancing and other amusements filled in the remainder of a very happy and successful evening.

TAMBuellup

The usual monthly meeting was held on the 14th December. A good muster of diggers was present, including a couple of enthusiastic adherents of the boating club obviously out for blood. Spokesman ‘Bunny’ up-ended himself and sternly reprimanded the scribe for describing their hard-working outfit as a Keystone comedy. According to ‘Bunny,’ the Tambellup Boating Club is not a Keystone, or any other brand of comedy, and if it likes, to indulge in a winter sleep, it was not for them to wake up until Christmas, if it didn’t want to, so there. Afore-said scribe basphomously apologised for saying what most of the mob were thinking, anyway, and promised (with reservations) not to think aloud in future. This interlude having finished with “Bunny” and the much chastened offender beaming on each other, the meeting proceeded to arrange the details of a proposed smoke social to be held on December 28th. An admittance of five bob per bob or alternatively, a couple of bottles of beer and a bob-in for eats. As there are about 40 members in the sub-branch and several other old soldiers about the district, a bumper evening is anticipated. The usual monthly report was received from Hospital Secretary Wally Cadd, who stated that things were going smoothly at the local dry dock. The meeting concluded with instructions to the Secretary to send Christmas greetings of the sub-branch to Ross Steele, who at time of writing is still an inmate of Ward 1.

Women’s Auxiliaries

Points from the Presidential Address, delivered by Mrs. T. C. Wilson, at the 5th Annual Conference of R.S.L. Women’s Auxiliaries.

No organisation succeeds unless it fills a want, and the time for launching is opportune! That our branches have grown from nine to fifty-four in four years, shows that we were needed, and we started as an organisation none too soon.

I would like to say a word of appreciation to branch members—the women, who, in a quiet and unostentatious way, without, very often, any one knowing what has been accomplished, are daily making sacrifices—it may be making an extra garment for somebody’s child, who needs it—a busy mother whose hands are already full enough of household duties, and yet finds time to attend her meeting and cheer perhaps another sad heart. I have heard of many women who cannot take positions in their branch, and yet are setting an example of public spirit and noble hearted endeavour—worthy of copying. To the members who have time and capabilities, I would appeal to them for help. Although holding office means considerable self-denial, yet—in giving a helping hand in this way you are developing hidden qualities in yourself, as well as being an asset to the branch.

Among other lessons, the war has taught us the extreme value of co-operation. The fault may not always be with the sub-branch; our auxiliaries are not expected to take the initiative in League activities, but help the sub-branch where we are needed. If, however, a sub-branch does not desire to take part such as in a Poppy Day effort, and the auxiliary is keen about it, that is quite a different matter. I think that little graceful acts such as inviting the president of the sub-branch to attend the annual meeting, and notifying the sub-branch of our office-bearers, sending annual report and balance sheet to their meeting, might lead to more co-operation; it would be nice also if the sub-branch would notify us of office-bearers after their annual meeting.

The success of wool week showed the wonderful possibilities of co-operation, and in touching on wool week, I would like to compliment all who took part on the excellence of the workmanship displayed in the frocks. It was delightful to examine them, but when one realised the awful responsibility the judges had, one could not be too thankful for the allotting of points which helped us in our decision. As the press stated, few envied us “our task.” It was good to know that the R.S.L. had been the means of having, over 1,000 frocks made of woollen material. The local events in connection with the competition must have been very interesting.

The Wyalkatchem Auxiliary sent a wonderful parcel of beautifully worked garments down to your Executive to distribute among cases of distress, from some of the proceeds of their Wool Ball. This action was greatly appreciated and admired.

Our auxiliaries are still pushing the sale of local and Empire goods, and we find that many shops are stocking these, although very often the imported article is shown first. We appreciated the kindly acknowledgment of the work of the
R.S.I.L. Women's Auxiliary by Mr. Hastings Reid, Secretary of the Empire Shopping Council, in the LISTENING POST of May last. Your Executive is represented by myself on the Council of Industries, and Mesdames Kirby and Marshall are also on the Consumers' Committee of that Council. This body is most energetic in finding out new avenues of production and marketing in the Far East of local goods. Already a trial shipment of dressed poultry has been sent abroad, and at the suggestion of the Royal Agricultural Society, the Council of Industries arranged a Dairy Produce Week in the Industries Hall. Visits have been paid to local jam factories and woollen mills, and it is interesting to know that we have a factory with up-to-date machinery at Welshpool that manufactures and exports to the Eastern States. As this factory does not advertise, very few people know of its existence, but it is gradually building up an industry.

Last summer your Executive was asked to take over the old Trust Fund arranged during the war for outings for soldiers in the various hospitals. With the assistance of our auxiliaries and cooperation of sub-branches in the various districts, delightful outings were arranged at Kalamunda, Cottesloe, Spearwood, Fremantle, and Kelmseck. These were greatly appreciated by the Repatriation, Lemnos, Edward Millen patients, cars being lent by our members and their friends. We hope to resume these again as soon as weather permits. Grateful letters have been received from the matrons of hospitals regarding the benefits from these outings to patients.

Your Executive has had a very busy time during the past year with amelioration work, the State Secretary's Report will give you that information, and she has been very busy lately with the Cancer Appeal. On account of the vast amount of time taken up during our monthly Executive meeting with the correspondence relating to Amelioration work it was decided that a day in each week should be set apart for the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and three Trustees to go into this relief work—as it was growing into a very big responsibility on account of not being able to get second-hand clothing, and all materials having to be purchased; on my suggestion it was agreed that the three Trustees should do the purchasing of material, the State Secretary keeping all docketts and checking goods—I do think our Trustees are becoming expert shoppers, and between ourselves I think they enjoy doing the shopping and are becoming well-known personages in the various shops in this respect. On meeting them in the street the other day—almost the first words they spoke were: "You can get ladies' singlets for so and so at this shop and children's for."

"Yes, we have just bought them and are making up the parcels straight away."—I would like to say how I have appreciated the spirit in which the three Trustees have done the extra work which was allotted to them this year. We are deeply grateful to Miss I. Street and Miss Wright from the Perth Technical School for help in making garments.

Our Hospital Visiting Committee who have carried cheer and goodwill to returned men in the various wards in the hospitals have done their work also in a delightful way. Not only men, but also women and children from country districts have been visited and grateful letters received.

The State Secretary and Assistant State Secretary are both busy women in R.S.I.L work, and very often are three or four days a week at the Soldiers' Institute—sometimes more. During Baby Week some of us took an active part as individuals in helping to make a success of that event, and the Executive arranged an afternoon to entertain the mothers and babies at the Institute. The programme was arranged by the babies as well as the mothers. I should like to say here how wonderfully both Dr. Stang and Miss Anderson worked to make this event the huge success it was, and it is gratifying to note that as a result one of Dr. Stang's ambitions is realized, that is, a Correspondence Nurse for Country Mothers. I am pleased to notice also that in the Royal Show again this year arrangements are to be made where country people may be examined and advised as to whether they require medical attention or not. Many people who do not enjoy good health feel they cannot afford to visit a doctor and may be glad to know of this. You all know what Dr. Atkinson says: "If people would only visit their doctor once a year to get medical advice as to their health, much suffering might be spared."

That poppies for Armistice Day are now being made in the State is also a matter for congratulation. That it was possible to make the many thousands of these in the State without machinery was proved last year by the sister of a soldier, who cut 40,000 out by hand. This year the Maimed and Limbless men are manufacturing them in the State.

The many calls on us for street collections by various organizations have been responded to as far as possible. I do hope our one annual appeal on Armistice Day will find many helpers, both in and out of the organisation, who will remember that Poppy Day stands for Remembrance of our fallen as well as funds for Amelioration work for those in need.

STATE EXECUTIVE

Owing to our President's absence in the country, Mrs. T. Marshall ably took her place as the meeting on November 21. Before the commencement of business Mrs. Marshall welcomed the recently elected members of the committee, Mesdames Felip, Orgill, Power and Stone.

Mrs. Wilson was a guest at the annual reunion dinner of the Second District Committee, R.S.I.L., held at Benckinbin, on Saturday, November 19. At this function she had the pleasure of meeting representatives of auxiliaries in the Second District. The evening was very enjoyable and Miss Wilson attended the (postponed) Armistice Ball at Kooragang. On the 24th she performed the opening ceremony at a Sale of Gifts held by the Mt. Lawley Women's Auxiliary, in aid of their funds. Bruce Rock was visited by Mrs. Wilson during the following week.

The Card evening, held at the Soldiers' Institute on 25th November, in aid of the general funds, showed a profit of £395 6d. The prize-winners were Miss Donnell and Mr. Richmion (highest hidden number), Mesdames Hashway and Stupperfield (lowest hidden number), Mesdames May and Spockman (euchre).

The December meeting was held on the 5th, because of the 19th being so near to Christmas After discussing suggestions put forward by a country auxiliary re item 12 of Agenda, the members decided that reports from auxiliaries competing, should, this year, begin from 30th September, 1932. They should be sent to the Executive, quarterly, the last to reach Perth not later than 1st September, 1933.

The Secretary stated in her reports for November and December that three adults and fourteen children had been assisted; four layettes had been given and 2 parcels of second-hand clothing received from Bruce Rock. The united
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Potts, State School, Albany</td>
<td>F. W. Thorn, P.O. Box 34, Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>C. R. Gillett, Bury St., Bunbury</td>
<td>A. E. Murray, Stephen St., Bunbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELMONT</td>
<td>Belmont Hall</td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
<td>T. H. Sibbitt, Grandstand Rd., Belmont</td>
<td>J. J. Mann, Room Ave., Belmont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bayswater</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. Rolfe, 22 Slade St., Bayswater</td>
<td>J. J. Pain, 17 Hamilton St., Bayswater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROOME</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Beresford Bardwell, Broome</td>
<td>E. Stainton, Broome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSSELTON</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Tuesday</td>
<td>H. Willmot Bussleton</td>
<td>J. H. Atkinson, Bussleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUNSWICK JUNCTION</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Alt. Thursday</td>
<td>A. W. Dedman, Brunswick Junction</td>
<td>S. Bowers, Brunswick Jctn. Tel. 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARLISLE</td>
<td>Bickford Soldiers' Memorial Hall</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>G. P. Manners, Watson St., Carlisle</td>
<td>L. Mason, Planet St., Carlisle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Hall</td>
<td>Alternate Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>D. W. Paterson, Swanston St., Collie</td>
<td>H. H. Stuchbury, Hawthorne Av., Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>A. T. Cooke, Cowaramup</td>
<td>C. W. A. Lewis, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE BEACH</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Last Wednesday in each month</td>
<td>C. Nixon, View St., Peppermint Grove</td>
<td>A. Sillitoe, 126 Glyde St., Buckland Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>First Thursday in each month</td>
<td>J. M. King, Kalamunda</td>
<td>R. Dewar, 115 Claremont Crescent, Swanbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE</td>
<td>Kalamunda Hotel (unlicensed portion)</td>
<td>3rd Saturday</td>
<td>Rev. J. Lawrence, Denmark</td>
<td>H. G. Penrose, Kalamunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>Institute, Denmark</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>T. Brown, Dumbleyung</td>
<td>W. S. Ferrier, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DÜMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dumbleyung</td>
<td>Quarterly, last Sunday in Jan., April, July, Oct.</td>
<td>J. W. Weggan, Salmon Gums</td>
<td>H. Greaves, Dumbleyung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gums</td>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>J. E. W. Harding, Donnybrook</td>
<td>Alan Morton, Salmon Gums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONNYBROOK</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Last Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Phone 87 Theo. Brennan, 74 Mary St., Fremantle</td>
<td>F. C. Dallow, Donnybrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE AND DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays (Pension Nights), 8 p.m.</td>
<td>C. R. Cornish, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>P. S. Jone, Carrington St., Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASCOWYNE</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>Major H. G. Palmer, Harvey</td>
<td>R. W. Gratwick, Customs House, Carnarvon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>War Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>R. De Pacey, 13 Boulder Rd., Kalgoorlie</td>
<td>Alfred J. Knight, Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>V. Menti</td>
<td>T. C. Fairley, 49 Campbell St., Kalgoorlie. Tel. 290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>P.P.A. Room</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>G. L. Ogilvie, Karridale</td>
<td>W. J. Cox, Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLEBERRIN AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>J. Knopp, Derby</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mann, Kellersberrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>H. Roche, Mallingup</td>
<td>A. Gwilliam, Derby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonoop</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koorda</td>
<td>V. B. Sewell, Kojonoop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Commercial Room, Hotel</td>
<td>Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Collinson, Lake Grace</td>
<td>L. J. Carter, Koorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>3rd Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. D. Allen, Lake King</td>
<td>T. W. McDougall, Lake Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE KING</td>
<td>Lake King Hall</td>
<td>2nd Sunday</td>
<td>V. Menti</td>
<td>C. Verden, Lake King. Tel. No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>T. G. Soaness, &quot;Merryup,&quot; Mt. Barker</td>
<td>S. Reeves, Mt. Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT MAHSHALL</td>
<td>Road Board Hall, Bencubbin</td>
<td>Third Sunday, Dec., Mar., June, September</td>
<td>P. P. Le Cras, Bencubbin</td>
<td>S. N. McKenzie, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Supper Room, Town Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>Alt. Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. (pension week)</td>
<td>W. A. Clowes, Maylands Hotel, Maylands</td>
<td>H. King, 13 Rankin Rd., Subiaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Alt. Mundaring and Mt. Helena</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Walker, Mt. Helena</td>
<td>H. Pattan, Mundaring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Room</td>
<td>3rd Thursday</td>
<td>F. Paterson, c/o P.O., Midland June. Tel. MJ219</td>
<td>R. E. Marsh, Harold Road, East Midland. Tel. MJ39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
R.S.L. Sub-Branch, Women's Auxiliaries

**MOUNT LAWLEY**
- Place: Wallidji Hall, Grosepor Rd., Mt. Lawley
- Date: 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.
- President: Col. T. Plintoff, 3 Second Ave., Mt. Lawley
- Secretary: H. H. Ferguson, 121 Rookwood St., Mt. Lawley

**MORNINGTON MILLS**
- Place: Mornington Mills
- Date: Every Alt. Sunday
- President: A. Turner, Mornington Mills
- Secretary: G. Wilson, Mornington Mills

**NANNUP**
- Place: Road Board Hall, Soldiers' Institute
- Date: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m.
- President: W. J. Hunt, Mary St., Como
- Secretary: C. Longmore, c/o West Australian, Perth

**NARROGIN**
- Place: Railway Hotel, Northampton
- Date: St. Hilda's Hall, Galle St., (Off View Street)
- President: S. A. Macnamara, Heyesbury Rd., Subiaco
- Secretary: T. S. Anderson, Southern Cross

**NORTHAMPTON**
- Place: Avon Bridge Hotel
- Date: 1st Wednesday in the month
- President: S. S. Smith, Subiaco
- Secretary: J. P. Markay, Police Stn.

**NORTH PERTH**
- Place: St. Hilda's Hall, Galle St., (Off View Street)
- Date: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 p.m.
- President: W. E. Elston, North Perth
- Secretary: F. N. Graves, Yelbeni

**PERTH**
- Place: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m.
- President: A. J. Smith, Tambellup
- Secretary: N. H. Millar, Toodyay

**PRESS**
- Place: At Luncheon, Soldiers' Institute
- Date: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
- President: W. E. Elston, Press
- Secretary: H. K. MacLean, East Press, Tel. No. 10

**PITHARA**
- Place: Billiard Saloon
- Date: 1st Saturday, 10.30 a.m.
- President: T. Cowan, Yornasing
- Secretary: C. T. M'Garrigal, Poppayinning

**POPSARWINNING**
- Place: Yornaying and Poppayinning
- Date: When called
- President: Ross A. Keeling, Port Hedland
- Secretary: A. E. Clarke, Port Hedland

**PORT HEDLAND**
- Place: Miners' Arms Hotel
- Date: When called
- President: H. Stockhill, Ravensthope
- Secretary: J. F. Smith, Ravensthope

**PILBAFRA**
- Place: Port Hedland
- Date: Col. A. N. C. Olden, North Perth
- President: H. S. Thompson, South Perth
- Secretary: S. A. Macnamara, Heyesbury Rd., Subiaco

**RAVENSTHORPE**
- Place: Morgan St.
- Date: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9 p.m.
- President: J. J. F. N. Olden, Ravensthope
- Secretary: J. J. F. N. Olden, Ravensthope

**SOUTH PERTH**
- Place: Public Hall, Swan Street
- Date: 4th Thursday
- President: W. E. Elston, South Perth
- Secretary: W. E. Elston, South Perth

**SUBIACO**
- Place: Branch Rooms, Rokey Rd., Subiaco
- Date: Alternate Thursdays
- President: S. S. Smith, Subiaco
- Secretary: T. S. Anderson, Southern Cross

**SOUTHERN CROSS**
- Place: Palace Hotel
- Date: 3rd Saturday
- President: A. J. Smith, Tambellup
- Secretary: N. H. Millar, Toodyay

**TAMBEUUP**
- Place: Mr. Markey's Residence
- Date: 2nd Wednesday
- President: Padre F. G. O'Halloran, Fennis St., Toodyay
- Secretary: J. P. Markay, Police Stn.

**TOODAY**
- Place: Freemasons' Hotel
- Date: 2nd Wednesday in each month, 8 p.m.
- President: Mr. H. R. Craike, Trayning
- Secretary: T. S. Anderson, Southern Cross

**TRAYNING-YELBENI**
- Place: Trayning (3), Yelbeni (1)
- Date: 4th Sunday
- President: R. Alexander, 82 Shepparton Rd., Victoria Park
- Secretary: J. J. F. N. Olden, Ravensthope

**VICTORIA PARK**
- Place: Library Hall, Albany Road, Victoria Park
- Date: 3rd Friday in each month, 8 p.m.
- President: H. B. Hayles, Police Court, Perth
- Secretary: J. R. Coote, Police Court, Perth

**WEST PERTH**
- Place: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date: 3rd Thursday, 7.30 p.m.
- President: H. B. Hayles, Police Court, Perth
- Secretary: J. R. Coote, Police Court, Perth

**WUBIN, BUNTEE, JEDBERDING**
- Place: Each place alt., commencing Buntee, March 1
- Date: 1st Sunday, 3 a.m.
- President: V. E. Troode, 30 Harbourne St., Wembley Park
- Secretary: A. Paterson, Yandil St., Wubin

**WILUNA**
- Place: Mine Boarding House
- Date: First Sunday, monthly
- President: J. H. B. Lowton, Yealering
- Secretary: Keith J. Jones, Yealering

**YEALERING**
- Place: Commercial Hotel, Yealering
- Date: 3rd Saturday, 8 a.m.
- President: T. Sten, York
- Secretary: C. Vernon Harris, P.O. Box 99, Phone 3

**YORK**
- Place: Commercial Hotel, Yealering
- Date: 1st Saturday, Quarterly
- President: T. Sten, York
- Secretary: C. Vernon Harris, P.O. Box 99, Phone 3

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**R.S.L. Sub-Branch, Women's Auxiliaries**

**DONNYBROOK**
- Place: Memorial Hall
- Date: First Saturday, monthly
- President: Mrs. Harding, Donnybrook
- Secretary: Mrs. G. Giggs, Donnybrook

**VICTORIA PARK**
- Place: Library Hall, Albany Road
- Date: Fourth Friday, 7.30 p.m.
- President: Mrs. O. Taylor, 34 State Sts., Victoria Park
- Secretary: Mrs. D. Pike, 38 State Sts., Victoria Park

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**Shirleys**

Perth's Leading Frock Shop

704 HAY STREET, PERTH
**ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN**

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<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>Bgr.-Gen. A. J. Bennell-Brown</td>
<td>J. Smyth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. I. E. D. Dunkley</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEVENTH BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 p.m. on 11th of month</td>
<td>W. Kruger 98 St. Leonard's Avenue, Ledderville</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX-NAVAL MEN'S ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Sports Club, King Street</td>
<td>Alt. Tuesdays</td>
<td>L. Kaye Perrin 100 Melville St., S. Perth</td>
<td>Wm. Robins 122 Lake St., Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX-NAVAL MEN: Freemantle Sub-Section</td>
<td>His Majesty's Hotel</td>
<td>2nd and last Wednesdays</td>
<td>J. A. Main 10 Wray Ave., Fremantle</td>
<td>A. J. Rate, Royal Oak 223 Mary St., Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>I. E. Dunkley</td>
<td>J. V. Pascoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRTY-SECOND BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Annual Re-union, July</td>
<td>R. Alexander, c/o Government House, Perth</td>
<td>L. D. Lobuscher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Major R. E. Grimwood, New Zealand Chambers, St. George's Ter, Perth</td>
<td>R. H. Perry, c/o Repat, Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Listening Post**

December 23, 1932

**ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN**

**Secretary's Report**

The comprehensive report given by the State Secretary, Mrs. H. Hopperton, revealed the fact that fifteen new auxiliaries had been, formed during the year. In the Melbourne area, new auxiliaries were formed at the State Executive from funds supplied by the Central Relief Committee, 57 branches, 132 yards of material, 444 garments, and 20 pairs of shoes had been distributed: 148 adults and 231 children were assisted.

**FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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**Gascoyne**

At the November meeting, the Secretary (Mrs. McCracken) read correspondence from the Gascoyne Sub-branch of the R.S.L., inviting the attendance of the auxiliary in disposing of poppies on Armistice Day, and their co-operation in the dance to be held on November 11. Mrs. McCracken and Miss Cornish attended as delegates from the sub-branch to assist with advice or information on the subjects under discussion. As a result of the circular letter from the R.S.L. on the question of “Disabilities of the North-West,” a letter was sent by the Secretary inviting the auxiliary to be represented at the forthcoming public meeting by Misses G. F. Egan and McCracken.

**Victoria Park**

The auxiliary has had a very busy time during the past few weeks, and there was a record attendance at the annual meeting on November 25. After the reading of the various annual reports the election of officers for the ensuing year took place. Mrs. Taylor was re-elected President and Mrs. Pike, Secretary. Other officers elected were: Vice-Presidents, Mrs. McFarlane and Mr. Cameron; Treasurer, Misses Massey, Barnett, Barnett and Hills; Committee: Misses Ramsay, Barnett, McFarlane, Hills, Elphinston; Publicity Officer, Mrs. Hills. There were over 100 happy children at the Christmas party on December 10. Paper cards and bonbons were given to the scene and each child received a helping of the Christmas cake. Games and dancing, with intervals for ice cream, filled the time until Father Christmas (Mr. Harry Taylor) arrived, re-Enipend in his official robes. Each child was then handed a parcel by the dear old chap—the youngest children being attended to first. Then followed a most exciting time while parcels were being opened and their contents seemed to give general satisfaction. The toys were all supplied by members of the Auxiliary, and there were some very nice articles in various ages, and both sexes. Sick children were not forgotten. A parcel of good things and a present from Father Christmas was set aside for each. An impromptu concert, followed by more ice creams, brought a very successful evening to a close.

**Narrogin**

Miss Enid McFarlane, President of Narrogin Sub-branch, writes that the Auxiliary R.S.L. wishes the State President, Vice-President, and Secretary, and all Auxiliary Branches a Merry Christmas and a Very Prosperous New Year.

We had a very successful Poppy Day, the ladies solders and Mr. Hogue doing excellent work. At a bridge evening on December 23, a bridge table and writing case were raffled, realising £18. Mrs. Job ran a cache evening at Yallingup on December 10, it was very successful.

Thank you to Mr. Hocking, who did all the work at the table to make the evening such a success.

The Branch had a very interesting letter from North Perth about poppy work. Too much praise cannot be given them for their great work all the year round.
H. V. McKay Massey Harris Pty. Ltd.

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